

# NFWB Tigers capture division crown

While the Detroit Tigers continue to struggle in the Major Leagues, the 10-year-old Tigers in the North Farmington-West Bloomfield organization are basking in the afterglow of an outstanding season.

The NFWB Tigers captured the Mustang Division title with a 10-4 record after defeating the Dodgers in a playoff game at Warner Middle School, 12-3.

Cleanup hitter Ryan Morgan surfaced as the team's Juan Gonzalez, hitting the ball into the outfield consistently during the season.

Alex Strauch was NFWB's answer to Tony Clark, completing numerous plays at first base to shut down opposing teams.

The championship was especially sweet for Tigers player Alex Manion, whose great grandfather, Clyde Manion, was a catcher for the Detroit Tigers in the Ty Cobb era from 1920-26.

Manion was one of several pitchers for the NFWB team along with Morgan, Noah Garrett, David Lawrence, Seth Wald and Charlie Molnar.

"Our guys looked like real professionals on the field," Tigers coach Joe Giacomin said. "They

## BASEBALL

did everything right."

Giacomin added he was especially pleased with Tony Beare, who recently recovered from a broken arm and caught a threatening flyball in deep right field during the playoff game.

"It was a beautiful moment," Giacomin said.

Assisting Giacomin were coaches Clyde and Tom Manion, both grandsons of the late Tiger.

**Cobras 3-0 to start season**

The 16-year-old NFWB Cobras travel baseball team began the season with three consecutive wins.

The national champion Cobras opened June 10 with a 7-9 win over the Michigan Rams. Andy Wingert earned the win, pitching three shutout innings in relief of Ben Darga.

Wingert and Matt Petry led the Cobra hitters, each going 2-for-3 at the plate. Doug Pickens had a double that knocked in two runs.

The second win June 12 was against the Detroit Eagles, 12-1. Dan Lentz allowed only one hit

while striking out seven.

Nine Cobras contributed at least one hit to a balanced offensive attack.

Petry and Wingert led the way again, going 2-for-3. Nick Vitale, P. Petry and Wingert scored two runs apiece.

The Cobras made it three straight wins June 13, defeating the Lincoln Park Rails, 8-7.

Petry picked up his second victory after relieving Neil Sternberg. Vitale closed out the game to earn a save.

A key defensive play occurred in the first inning.

With two runners on, Darga caught a flyball in right field and threw a strike to catcher Pickens, who tagged the runner trying to score from third base for a double play.

The Cobras compete in the Little Caesars Baseball League and will travel to Atlanta, Ga., for a national tournament next week.

**Blues perfect in tournaments**

The South Farmington 11-and-under Blues kept their perfect tournament record intact by capturing a division title in the South Farmington Invitational at Founders Park June 10-11.

The Blues defeated Penton, 14-3, Oak Forest (Ill.), 8-6, and Huron, 18-2, to reach the championship game in which South Farmington overwhelmed Wallen (Ind.), 11-1.

Pitching was the key to the Blues' success. Josh Rebandt led the team by throwing eight scoreless innings over the course of three games.

In the title game, Rebandt and Zak Kozuchowski held Wallen to one ball hit to the outfield. Right fielder Andy Harris made a diving catch on the play.

Outstanding plays also were turned in by infielders Stephen Doty, Andy Lentz and Brooks Tuyn. Doty, Lentz, Brian Noble, Jeff Gorecki and Harvey Martin contributed to the pitching effort.

Catcher Jon Castine led the offense with eight hits. Timley hits also were recorded by Kozuchowski, Kevin Rafferty and Paul Greenwood.

The Blues improved their season record to 20-1 overall. In tournament play, South Farmington is 14-0, having won titles in the Northville EarlyBird and Liberty Park USSSA Memorial Day competitions.

# Post 346 splits games with defending champ

## BASEBALL

Farmington Post 346 split a doubleheader Sunday with defending state champion Berkley in American Legion baseball competition.

Post 346 won the first game, 6-4, at Farmington High School but lost a slugfest in the nightcap, 11-9.

Tony Luttmann pitched a complete game in the opener for his first Legion victory, allowing eight hits and seven walks while striking out four.

His teammates supported him with eight hits, including two pieces, as well as a run scored, by Kyle Burcar, Nick Hippler and Justin Gerwatowski.

James Claranhan drove in the go-ahead run, 6-4, with a sacrifice fly in the sixth inning, and he also had an RBI single.

Luttmann had the other hit; Burcar had an RBI, too.

In the second game, visiting Farmington scored three runs in the top of the seventh to make the score 11-9, but the rally ran out of steam at that point.

Gerwatowski had three hits, including a double, and two RBI; Preston Picard and

John Gauruder hit two-run doubles; Burcar and Claranhan had RBI doubles, and Luttmann had an RBI single.

Berkley scored twice in the sixth inning to take an 11-6 lead on three no-play, bunt singles and a throwing error.

John Weiseman pitched two innings and took the loss after Berkley scored four runs in the first inning. Claranhan and Brett Brown pitched in relief.

Post 346 started the season Friday with a 2-1 loss to Shelby at Utica.

Brown homered in the top of the sixth, but Bob Everett answered with a two-run double for Shelby in the bottom of the inning.

Shelby had just two hits off three Farmington pitchers.

Luttmann threw three hitless innings and retired Shelby in order before a sore elbow caused him to leave the mound.

Justin Shaw, who took the loss, gave way to Gerwatowski after walking two batters in the sixth.

# Shamrocks

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was safe to load the bases.

But CC couldn't push the run home and any chance winning ended right there as Polny got the Shamrocks to go 1-2-3 in the sixth and seventh innings.

"The one good chance we had was when we loaded the bases," said Salter. "We had a full count and the runners were moving on the pitch, so if there was a hit, we tie the score. But we couldn't

do it."

CC also had chances in the first inning when Ryan Rogowski had a one-out single and stole second, but didn't score, and in the second as Phil Marrone followed Tovey's sacrifice fly by reaching on an error and Entaminger walked.

"It happens that way sometimes," Kelly said. "Still, a game like this is wonderful for the

league. It's awfully nice to have

the division recognized, and if you look at it, these aren't even the two best teams in the league according to the wins and losses."

Entaminger agreed.

"We've played them four times and we know what they had. What are the chances of this happening with two schools in the same league? It would have

been nice if it was reversed, but it was just their time."

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